

## Test Your Home for Radon

Our cold winter days are a perfect opportunity for Michigan homeowners to start the new year off right by testing their home for radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is believed to be the second leading cause of lung cancer and the leading cause among nonsmokers.

Radon is found naturally in almost any kind of soil or rock. It travels through the ground, and is quickly diluted when released to the atmosphere, however when it seeps into homes through openings in the foundation floor or walls, it can build up to unhealthy levels.

While Radon is tasteless, odorless, and colorless, which too often makes it easy to ignore, nearly one in three radon tests done in Michigan homes from October - December, 2008, showed radon levels exceeding the recommended action guideline. The only way to know if your family is at risk is to test your home.

Radon tests should be done in the lowest livable level of the home during the cooler months of the year, when windows and doors are normally kept closed. If the test indicates an elevated radon level, more testing should be done to confirm the problem and appropriate actions taken to reduce the levels when needed.

Radon test kits are available from county and city health departments and generally cost \$15 or less. The price includes postage and lab fees. Kits can also be purchased online at <http://mi.radon.com>.

To find out more about radon, visit the DEQ Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/degradon> or call the DEQ Radon Program at 1-800-RADON GAS (1-800-723-6642) for a free packet of information.

